

## FINAL



**Town of Henniker  
Conservation Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, May 2, 2018  
Grange Building**

**Members Present:** Holly Green, Mark Mitch, Sachie Howard, Tracy Sudhulter and Drew Major

**Members Excused:** Ross Bennett

**Recording Secretary:** Kelly Hughes

**Guest:** Cliff Eisner SR.

### 1. Eisner Easement Area

Cliff Eisner SR speaks regarding a trench that dips down approx. 18 inches and the span at the higher ground is 14-16 feet. He is requesting to build an 8-foot-long bridge that is 2 feet wide. Since logs from the back of the parking lot have been removed, he also requests permission to install a conservation sign in the middle of the path to prevent vehicles from driving down. He is still waiting to hear from the designers of Cliff Eisner JR memorial stone and wishes to know if he needs permission to place the stone hopefully later this year. He also asks for the Conservation Commission to will reach out to Five Rivers Conservation trust if needed.

Mark asks if a permit is required. Tracy states that as long as the bridge is not on wet lands Cliff will not need a permit. If it is on wet lands the permit application is only 1 or 2 pages. Tracey offers to evaluate the area since she is a wet land biologist.

Drew mentions from the picture of the foot bridge, highwater will go around each end and will need to be tied in with some stones or gravel. He also asks if expanding the 8-foot bridge will avoid pulling a permit. Tracy agrees with expanding the bridge but will need to look over the area to determine if it is on a wet land.

### 2. Review & approve meeting minutes for 1/3/18 and 4/4/18

Minutes from January 3, 2018 are tabled 3<sup>rd</sup> tabled

**Mark motions approve April 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 minutes. Sachie seconds. Motions carries 4-0-1 (Drew Major).**

### 3. Updates from NH Dept of Environmental Services (Wetlands Bureau Rulemaking and Process Improvement Effort; new land conservation grant opportunities)

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There was a court case that NH sued the petroleum companies responsible for MBPT contamination. All but Exxon Mobil settled and all that money went in to a fund for MBTE issues. Exxon Mobil fought till end and lost. \$300 million was paid by Exxon to New Hampshire in damages. One percent of the total settlement has been set aside for land conservation and source water protection through the Drinking Water and Ground Water Trust Fund that was established post settlement.

Drew asks if it applies to well water. Holly responds that it applies to public drinking water wells and surface water, so the land in Henniker that would be eligible would-be Cogswell Springs. She believes it is worth looking into and to see if land owners are interested in selling conservation easements. Additionally, grants can be divided and be L shipped, which she will do more research on for the next meeting and the 50% match.

This year's deadline for grants is June 15<sup>th</sup> which Drew notes is not enough time to formulate a solid proposal but that should not stop the commission for getting a jump start on next year.

The wetland rules are being heavily revised, the most since 1991. One of the revisions is streamlining the registration process to preapprove agencies or consultants who already have their qualifications on file, as well as clarifying many of the definitions.

### **4. Report on April 7 Saving Special Places Conference**

Many of the sessions Holly attended did not pertain to Henniker. There is one conservation easement that Henniker holds, and she will look into whether said easement is being properly monitored.

Sachie attended a farm session, and there is lots of resources available to small farms that want to conserve some of their land. She also attended one regarding how to attract the next generation of conservation stewards. She pointed out she was the only non-white person in attendance and there is a challenge to bring in more diversity, such as race and age into conservation.

Drew agrees that getting the 20-40-year-old demographic engaged is incredibly challenging. Tracey mentions that the job market in New Hampshire is not as robust as other parts of the country resulting in young residents leaving for college and not returning back to settle down in New Hampshire.

Drew brings up the huge urban innovation and the focus being more on urban parks and green ways. He is unsure how to reach people living in Manchester and convincing them to come hike in Henniker. He also mentions that the NH Audubon is rather diverse, however they have a different dynamic and are an entity unto themselves, and that there are people who live in urban areas and will venture out to see rare birds and other wildlife. He also points out that the New Hampshire is not very diverse to begin with.

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Sachie comments that last year's conference was more diverse and she was not the only minority.

Drew brings up that the parks near urban centers are busy but there are great state parks not near urban centers that are not visited as frequently. Everyone seems to be struggling with the disconnect with young people and the natural world and it has been a growing problem. There needs to be a better effort to reach out and engage people in visiting state parks.

### 5. Other Business

Installing the West Henniker Dam sign: Mark will email Selectman Peter Flynn regarding installing the West Henniker Dam sign.

Mark has an update from Merrimack County Soil Conservation district. He met with Tim Flurry and reviewed all conversation land in Henniker. All sites are covered except for one on Pasture Lane. There is no forest management plan on any sites and believes it is worth having a discussion about and will not be that expensive. Additionally, Mark needs to purchase replacement parts for his flow meter which he estimates to be no more than \$40.

**Holly motions to approve \$40 from the Water Sampling Budget for replacing parts on the flow meter. Sachie seconds. Motion carries 5-0.**

**Drew motions to adjourn. Sachie seconds. Motion carries 5-0.**  
**Adjourn at 8:10 pm**